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## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter September-October 2015

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety would like to remind citizens that school is back in session. The following tips will help keep you and your loved ones safe during this time:

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### Grants Pass Department Of Public Safety

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**Contact Information:**

Non-Emergency

541-450-6260

Fire

541-450-6200

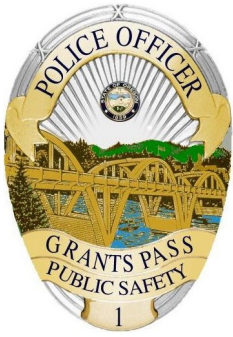
City Hall

541-450-6000



1. Slow down and be alert in residential areas and near schools.
2. Speed limit in school zones is now 20 mph on school days.
3. Take extra time to look for kids in intersections, medians and along curbs.
4. Enter and exit driveways and alleyways slowly.
5. Watch for children along the road in the mornings and evenings when they are waiting for buses.
6. Stop for school bus signals when they are loading or unloading children. Oregon law requires drivers to stop in both directions for school buses.
7. Never pass a school bus on the right.
8. Stop and allow pedestrians to cross at crosswalks, to include your lane and the lane adjacent to you.

If you have any questions, please contact Officer Lesley Donaghy Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Bureau at 450-6245.



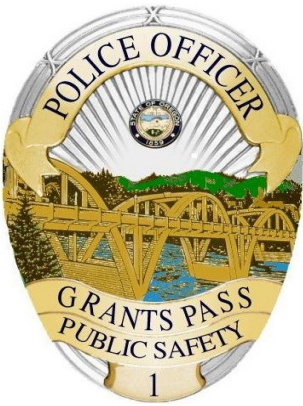
## **Fire Prevention Week 2016 is October 9th through 15th**

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

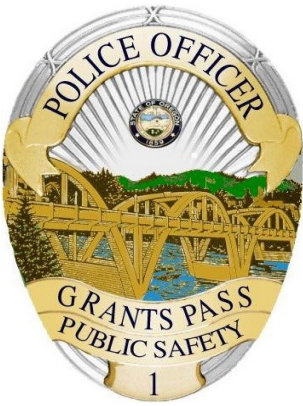
The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is: Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives, Test Yours Every Month!



To help keep children safe this Halloween, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime and Fire Prevention Bureau would like to remind parents of some Halloween safety tips:

1. Make sure children are wearing reflective, bright colors, so drivers can see them.
2. Use a flashlight to see and be seen. Remind children to walk on the sidewalks or as close to the curb as possible. Always use crosswalks and look both ways before crossing the street. Always walk, never run across a street.
3. Warn your children not to eat any candy until it can be inspected by you.
4. Advise children to never enter a stranger's home or car.
5. Avoid costumes that are too long or loose to avoid tripping.
6. Make sure the holes in your child's mask are large enough to see through easily.
7. Children should always stay within a group. Never let them go out alone.
8. If you use a candle in your Jack-O-Lantern, don't leave it unattended.
9. The safest option during this busy night is to accompany your children to designated events.
10. Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, heaters and Jack O' Lanterns.
11. Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.

The Grant Pass Department of Public Safety Fire Prevention Bureau would like to remind you that the Fire Prevention Bureau must inspect all Haunted Houses not located in a private residence prior to opening to the public. The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime and Fire Prevention Bureau would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Halloween!



The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety has received numerous calls regarding vehicles being stolen. They are being stolen because the keys are left in them, the suspects have access to the keys or they are commonly stolen vehicles. On average a vehicle is stolen in the United States every 21 minutes. Vehicle thefts cost the victim time and money, and often the vehicles are used in the commission of other crimes. Vehicles are stolen during the day and at night.

In order to decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim of a vehicle theft:

- If you need to warm up your vehicle, don't leave the vehicle unattended. If you are waiting in the vehicle, lock the doors. If someone approaches your vehicle, don't unlock the door or roll the window down all the way. This will decrease your likelihood of being kidnapped.
- Always lock your vehicle and keep your windows rolled up. An unlocked vehicle is an easy target for thieves, even when it is parked in your driveway.
- Park in high traffic, well lit areas.
- If you have a trailer or another vehicle with a VIN (ex: quad, dirt bike), secure it to your primary vehicle with a lock to prevent easy thefts.
- Never leave your running car unattended, even to run into a business or store. Even if you lock your door, criminals will break the window and take the car.
- Never leave any keys in the car or ignition, inside a garage or in a hide a key box.
- Look into purchasing a vehicle theft tracking/security system, especially if you own a frequently stolen model vehicle.
- Copy your license plate and vehicle identification number (VIN) onto a card and keep them with you. The police department will need this information to take a report.
- Report any suspicious activity that you see in parking lots or in your neighborhood.
- If your vehicle is stolen, report it to the police department immediately.

If you have questions, please contact Officer Lesley Donaghy Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6245.